

The Goodwill Messenger

Published by the Village Church of Cummington

Minister: Rev. Jon Rehmus

Organist: Morgan Markel

Church Office: 634-5508

Service 10:00 AM, 1st & 3rd Sundays

Editor & Graphics: John Maruskin • Reporting & Mailing: Pat Keith

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cummingtonvillagechurch.org

Village Church—Open and Affirming—You are welcome here

Minister's Message

Dear Friends,
Some have difficulty with superlatives directed at Greenwood Music Camp's contribution to our summer services. This can be caused by annual promotion cycles or comparing or in some cases by taking it for granted.

Yet I say, we can't hide it under a bushel. Whether the Village Church's crown is an alloy of gold or brass or has its share of thorns, the center jewel in all cases is genuine: for 77 years this summer, the church and camp have combined for something truly special. Going into my fifth Greenwood season, the energy there is unlike others I've known in worship experience. Many Greenwood alumni specifically recall the experience of Sunday services with good memories, says Greenwood choral director Greg Hayes.

He also says the campers love an audience, and we all know how the spirit of music, community, and worship just lifts with that sense of a fuller house. So please, starting now, reach out to others with invitations. You meet some folks at the Creamery who are new to the community: tell them about Greenwood. A friend is considering an outing to the Berkshires: Sunday mornings at 10 starting July 10. Maybe someone would like to hear about our July 31 Greenwood service with West Cummington Church.

Let's let our light shine— wouldn't it be wonderful to hear us all, chorus and congregation, harmonize on that one!

In faith and service,
Jon

June At the Village Church

June 2, 9, 16—Yoga, 4:00–5:30 PM and Silent Meditation, 5:45–6:15 PM. Check with Stacy Mackowiak about later schedule.

June 5—Service 10 AM

June 10—Friday Night Café—Sounds of Silence (see article inside)

June 12—Annual Meeting, 10 AM—Help guide your church!

June 17—Friday Night Jam

June 19—Service 10 AM

Hosting Greenwood Parents?

Please consider hosting a set of Greenwood parents for the August 6–7 parents weekend (they arrive Sat. PM and depart Sunday AM). This program last year was a delight to guests and hosts. This also serves as a fundraiser for the church: in lieu of payment for this B&B arrangement, we ask for a donation to Village Church. Contact Rev. Jon if you're willing (jonrehmus@gmail.com; 413-624-3025).

Ministry Hours and Peaceful Thursdays

From Rev. Jon: Our changed summer schedule begins in June, and until June 16, I am in Cummington on Thursdays and am happy to schedule appointments for mornings and evenings those days as well. Up until June 14 and then on June 28, Tuesday afternoons are also a time in addition to 1st & 3rd Sundays after lunch when I can often make in-person appointments. I am also glad to talk by phone, and please do call (413-624-3025) and leave a message in emergencies or if you seek 24-hour turn-around. I do not check email every day.

June 20–July 9 is a period when I combine conferencing away, Greenwood preparations, and leave/family vacation time. I will be available for pastoral appointments and meetings June 27–July 1 and taking emergency calls and messages throughout this period and the summer.

Cummington Historical Commission News

The Cummington Historical Commission proudly invites one and all to an Open House and Ribbon Cutting at the Old Parsonage at 38 Main Street. Please join us on June 18 from 1–4 PM. We will hear from Bill Streeter, Sean McWilliams and others beginning at 2 PM. The house is far from done but it is time to show it off! We hope you will join us for this special occasion. Handicapped parking is available on site with additional parking at the Kingman Tavern.

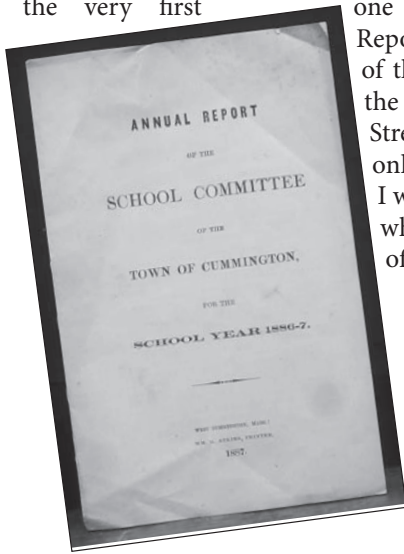
The Kingman Tavern Museum's summer season will begin on July 9 from 2 to 5 PM. We invite you to join us. Picnicking is welcome on our lawns or under the shade of our beautiful, cooling shade trees. More details about our summer programming will be included in the July Goodwill Messenger. At this time we are busy with preparations for reopening. We have several openings for paid summer guides and stipended volunteers. No experience is necessary as ample training will be provided. We depend on at least five volunteers and five guides per day. We would love to have you join us, teenagers are welcome! Please call or email Jessy at 860-402-8016, jessy.mcmahon@gmail.com for more information.

We are also organizing a garden subcommittee to assist us with new and needy flower and herb beds. If you have a passion for gardening and even a bit of time to spare do call! We promise to make it fun. Are you splitting perennials or finding flowering bushes popping up here and there? We would love them!

For additional information please call Pat at 413-563-1981 or email patakeith@gmail.com.

From The Librarian's Desk

Before Barbara Goldsmith headed off to Colorado she donated her collection of town reports to the library. Among them was the very first



one from 1887, entitled Annual Report of the School Committee of the Town of Cummington for the School Year 1886-7. If Bill Streeter hadn't described it to me only hours before we received it, I wouldn't have recognized it for what it was. Here's a photograph of it:

See you at the library!

—Mark

Ed. Note: Many of us here in Cummington are grateful to Barbara Goldsmith for her service to church and town. She will be having a much deserved rest with her daughter in Colorado, but will be missed here.

Rivulet Trail Old Growth

On Saturday, June 4 from 10 AM–12 PM, “Discover Your Old Growth—On the Rivulet Trail,” led by naturalist Aimee Gelinas M.Ed., Founder of Tamarack Hollow Nature and Cultural Center in Windsor, MA. This will be at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead, 207 Bryant Road, Cummington, MA. Trustee Members \$5; Nonmembers \$10. For more information: 413 532 1651 x 3110, westregion@thetrustees.org.

Art Show

Arts Alive in the Hilltowns presents “Shedding Some Light,” a show of original watercolors and oils by Artist Natalie Stafford of Worthington at the Cummington Community House, Main Street, Cummington. The Opening is Friday, June 10, 7 PM–9 PM. 10% of proceeds will go to Arts Alive in the Hilltowns. Artwork will be displayed from June 1–30. For information call 413 238 0192

Bird Walk

Sunday, June 12, from 8 AM–10 AM there will be a “MORNING BIRD WALK” on the Rivulet Trail with naturalist John Green at the William Cullen Bryant Homestead, 207 Bryant Road, Cummington. For more information 413 684 0148, westregion@thetrustees.org. Trustee Members \$5; Nonmembers \$10

The Goodwill Messenger, deadline for the July issue is June 25, 2016. Any personal news, an event, a business to promote with a paid advertisement or anything else worth noting please send to John at mrblooz@verizon.net or Pat at patakeith@gmail.com, mail to VCC, PO Box 76, Cummington, MA 01026 or leave it in the drop box, marked GWM located in the back entryway of the Village Church. Please be sure to include all the details, and a contact number in case we have questions.

Book Discussion

There will be an informal book discussion at the Bryant Free Library on Thursday, June 16th at 7 PM, of the book, *Charity and Sylvia: A Same-Sex Marriage in Early America*, by Rachel Hope Cleves. This is the story of Charity Bryant (aunt of William Cullen Bryant, born in 1777 and raised in Massachusetts), and Sylvia Drake. The review on goodreads.com states “an intimate history of their extraordinary 44 year union. Drawing on an array of original documents, including diaries, letters, and poetry. Cleves traces their lives in sharp detail. Providing an illuminating glimpse into a relationship that turns conventional notions of same sex marriage on their head, and reveals early America to be a place more diverse and more accommodating than modern society might imagine.”

Copies of the book are available on Amazon.com and at several regional libraries. If you are interested or need transportation, contact Brenda Arbib at 634 5542.

Aging Gracefully Discussion

A Community discussion group, sponsored by the Council on Aging focusing on Living Fully, Aging Gracefully and Befriending Death is forming and is open and welcoming to all residents of the Hilltowns. New members are always welcome.

The group will meet once a month on Tuesday afternoons, the second Tuesday, from 1–3 PM, at the Cummington Community House Library, Main Street starting Tuesday, May 10th.

Contact Wynne or Lucy 413 634-5576 wynlucy@verizon.net or Annie annieb@crocker.com.

Vicky Russin-Nash Passes

Vicky Russin-Nash and her friend Richard Darrow went to Denver, CO, to his grand daughter's graduation. They planned to vacation in that area for a few days. On May 20th, Vicky passed away, having suffered a massive stroke during the night. Arrangements will be known at a later date.

Carol Swart (1928–2016)

Carol Burbank Swart passed away Tuesday, April 26, 2016, at Highview of Northampton.

Carol was born June 2, 1928, in Montclair, New Jersey, and was educated in schools there. Her parents were Roland B. and Dorothy H. Swart. As a child she spent her summers in Tyringham, a town she loved.

Carol moved to Cummington in June 1954 and lived here until she moved to Highview in April 2014. She was editor of the Goodwill Messenger, a Cummington newspaper for many years. She raised and bred both Cocker Spaniels and Shelties. She was a lover of all animals and nature. She was especially fond of dogs, cats and horses.

For personal, church needs or questions please contact one of the Deacons, John Maruskin at 634-5320, Susan Riley at 634-8055, Kathleen Knox at 634-8041 or leave a message at the church 634-5508.

To rent the church space for classes, concerts, meetings, etc., please call Scott at 634-5084. The church charges a very nominal fee to cover upkeep & heat. We love having the building used!!

Friday Night Café

On May 13, “One Part Luck” —Peg Cowen and John Bye— gave a rousing performance to a large crowd. This duo always puts on a good show. This night they were joined for some numbers by friend Nate Treloar on guitar. Hear one of their songs on youtube: <http://tinyurl.com/jk2qb5g>

Coming up: On Friday June 10th from 7:30–9:30 PM, The Sounds of Silence: A 50-year anniversary celebration of Simon and Garfunkel. Musical guests include John Bye and Peg Cowen, Josh and Kim Wachtel, Rachel Laitman, Sean Kimball and Heather Cupo, James Kitchen and Mike Metger, Daniel Plane and Tatiana Berendi, Jonathan Rehmus and Michael Jennings.

Fifty years ago in 1966, pop music was undergoing the confluence of multiple movements, in music and without: lyricism flowing from the Beat poets, Dylan and others, the tunefulness and pace flowing out of rock and folk music, and rising social consciousness everywhere. The ingredients for good music and using music as commentary were everywhere available to a songwriter like Paul Simon.

Simon and Garfunkel’s 1966 album “Sounds of Silence,” its title song, and their release of the “Parsley, Sage, Rosemary, and Thyme” album the same year typify this. “Richard Corey” from the album is from an Edwin Arlington Robinson poem. “Homeward Bound,” recorded with the album and included on the UK release, has become a classic American road song. In 2013, the album “Sounds of Silence” was formally preserved by the Library of Congress as “culturally, historically, and aesthetically significant.”

This will be the last Friday Night Café until September!

There will be a Friday jam session on June 17, from 7–10 PM.



Above—John Bye, Nate Treloar, Peg Cowen; Below—John and Peg



Lunch Bunch

Lunch Bunch Ladies will be meeting June 8th at the Cold River Café and Restaurant at 31 Main St. Charlemont, MA.

Carpool will leave the Village Church at noon. Contact Edith Morton for more info.

Film Festival Cummington Story Featured

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival begins its thirtieth season on July 11th at 4:00 PM with two films, *Projections of America* and *The Cummington Story*. With the belief that “the power of movies” could reshape the world, Academy Award-winning screenwriter Robert Raskin headed a unique project for the Office of War Information to create short, informative documentaries that would redefine the image of America to the world during the darkest days of WWII. *The Cummington Story* was one of these films.

In previewing films for the film festival, the film selection committee was surprised and very proud to learn of our neighbor’s role in the integration of refugees into the small town of Cummington, MA. The film was an effort by the U.S. government to encourage acceptance of refugees and to show how a small town gradually integrated them into the community after initial reluctance.

The Berkshire Jewish Film Festival runs for six Mondays from July 11th through August 15th at Lenox Memorial Middle and High School, 197 East St. in Lenox, MA. There are 4:00 PM matinees and 8:00 evening shows. The film selections are very varied and the public is always welcome.

To learn more about the festival, please visit our website at www.knessetisrael.org.

We look forward to sharing *The Cummington Story* with your community and hope that you come back and see some of other exciting films that we will be showing this season.

Plainfield Passes Solar By-right Bylaws

At the annual town meeting (ATM) on 7 May Plainfield passed a bylaw designating an area of town-owned property for by-right large-scale solar installations. The vote was 69 Yes to 5 No, enough for the 2/3’s vote requirement. This is one step of five toward Plainfield becoming a Green Community and winning a grant of about \$136,500 for energy efficiency. Separately, the town unanimously passed the wording of the solar bylaw. By-right means that such installations can be built without a special permit.

The next steps are to adopt expedited permitting, establish a baseline of town energy use with a goal to reduce it by 20% in 5 years, purchase only fuel-efficient vehicles, and pass a stretch code (which will also require a 2/3’s town vote). The energy committee is already working on making an energy baseline.

Previously, the ATM defeated an alternate proposal, which would have made about 90% of the town’s land area by-right, by a 28 Yes to 46 No vote. (The result announced at the meeting was incorrect.)

Visit our website at cummingtonvillagechurch.org and FNC at <http://cummingtonvillagechurch.org/FNC.html>

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P.O. Box 76
Cummington, MA 01026

Schedule of Ongoing Events – all at the Community House unless specified

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Finance Office (Tax Collector, Treas., Acct.) open 6–7 PM	Admin. Assistant Hours 9–11 AM	Transfer Station open 7–11 AM
Veterans Agent 9–11 AM	Board of Health 1 st & 3 rd Tues. 7 PM (2nd floor)	Council on Aging Office Hours 9–noon (C.H. Annex)	Town Clerk 6–7:30 PM (2nd floor)	Family Center Play Group 9:30–11:30 AM	Bryant Library open 8:30 AM–12:30 PM
Assessor Office Hours 9:30–11:30 AM (upstairs in C.H.)		Bryant Library open 6–9 PM	Selectboard meets 7 PM		
Bryant Library open 6–9 PM		Transfer Station open 5:30–7:30 PM	Building Inspector 7–9 PM (upstairs in C. H.)		
		Planning Board 2nd, 4th weeks 7 PM	Board of Assessors meets 2 nd , 4 th Thursdays 6–8 PM		

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Free computer services offered by Ken Graf to Cummington senior citizens

634-8860

<http://kensstuff.blogspot.com>

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